destroy myself just for you

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by skullx

Summary

John finds him behind the barracks, hidden away from prying eyes and searchlights.

“Buck? Buck. Gale, what are you doing here? Since when do you smoke?”

Gale startles and drops the cigarette, grinding it under his boot. He hurriedly rolls down his sleeve.

Notes

hi guys! this is my very first fic so please leave some comments for improvement but please go easy on me! this is also a slightly darker fic that references and describes self-harm so please continue only if youre comfortable reading about it.

with that said, thanks for reading and i hope yall enjoy it!!

See the end of the work for more notes

John finds him behind the barracks, hidden away from prying eyes and searchlights.

“Buck? Buck. Gale, what are you doing here? Since when do you smoke?”

Gale startles and drops the cigarette, grinding it under his boot. He hurriedly rolls down his sleeve.

“I uh—fuck. It’s nothing Bucky. Go back inside.”

He turns to walk away. John grabs him by the shoulders and turns him around. Gale resists the urge to shake out of his grasp.

“Let me see your arm.”

“There’s nothing to see. Let's just go back inside Bucky.”

“Don’t fucking lie to me Buck. Let me see. *Please*.”

Gale sighs. He never could say no to John. He rolls up his sleeve, hissing quietly as the cold air hits the fresh burns.

John stares at the angry, red, mottled circles littering Gale’s forearm. His heart sinks to his feet and his eyes sting. He doesn't bother pretending its because of the icy wind.

Had he really been too busy wallowing in self-pity to notice this sooner? How had he looked at Buck every day and failed to notice the turmoil and suffering swirling in his favourite sky-blue eyes? John knows he fucked up. What happened to the Bucky that could read Buck like an open book?

“Jesus—Buck. Gale. How long?” He chokes out.

Gale huffs out a laugh that sounds closer to a sob. His eyes are red-rimmed and puffy.

Had Gale fucking Cleven been crying?

From the day they met, John had never seen Gale cry. Not when he lost 30 men on his first ever mission. Not when he’d lost 4 of his forts during the Regensburg mission. Not even when they lost Curt. John never thought he’d live the day to see Gale Cleven cry.

“Why does that matter John? I’m still here aren’t I? I’m not the one

walking too close to the fence, begging for a bullet in my head. At least this way I still *live*."

"But… but why? I thought you were better than—I thought you were better than *me*, Buck."

"Because I'm tired John. I'm so fucking tired of being Major Cleven. The boys—*our* boys— they need someone to look up to, to be strong. I don't know how long I can continue to be that person. I'm losing myself everyday and it feels like the pain is the only thing keeping me alive."

"Why didn't you just talk to me? You know I lov—" He stops himself. "You know you can always talk to me."

Gale scoffs. The burning in John's chest grows.

"How could I Bucky? I'm here with you but *you're* not here with me. I lost my best friend the day he walked into this fucking camp."

John feels as if he's been torn apart by flak. Except he knows even the burning, searing pain from flak would never hurt as much as this.

"Gale… fuck. I'm so fucking sorry. I shouldn't have—I'm sorry. I swear, Buck, it's you and me. It will *always* be you and me."

John reaches out, gently cradling Gale's face. Gale stills before closing his eyes and leaning into his touch.

"I know, John. I know."

"Promise me you won't do it again. I'm with you Buck, I swear to God I'm with you. Won't leave you alone again. Gale please don't do this to yourself."

He pulls Gale into a hug, pressing their hearts together. Gale slumps against John, wrapping his arms around Bucky's waist, and smiles softly up at him.

"I've missed this. I've missed us. It's good to have you back John."

John holds Gale a little tighter, feeling the weight of the moment settle around them. For a second, everything feels almost like it used to.

But not for the first time, John wishes that it could be more.

End Notes

thanks for making it to the end and lmk what yall think! kudos and comments are greatly appreciated!

Please drop by the Archive and comment to let the creator know if you enjoyed their work!